

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03231 101200Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 050247

R 101043Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8579

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MASERU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3231

E. O. 11652: DECONTROL 9/10/75

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SF

SUBJ: CONDITIONS AT BLACK UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE STILL UNSETTLED

REF: CAPE TOWN 542 AND PREVIOUS

FROM O'NEILL

1. SINCE EVENTS REPORTED REFTELS THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS AT AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE. PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT ROUGHLY 250 STUDENTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ATTENDING LECTURES WHILE SOME 700 HAVE NOT RETURNED TO UNIVERSITY AND ATMOSPHERE IS FAR FROM HAPPY.

2. AFTER ORIGINAL 159 STUDENTS WERE "RUSTICATED," VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF PARENTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WERE FORMED, USING AS BASIS PARENTS "VIGILANTE" COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR AFTER MASS EXPLOSIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH. LATER A SINGLE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03231 101200Z

COMMITTEE MET WITH RECTOR AND REQUESTED THAT ALL SUSPENDED

STUDENTS BE READMITTED. RECTOR AGREED ACCEPT MOST IF THEY APOLOGIZED TO AFRICAN WARDEN WHO WAS OSTENSIBLE CAUSE OF FIRST RIOTS. HE MAINTAINED SOME GUILTY STUDENTS COULD NOT BE READMITTED AND STUCK BY AUGUST 27 DEADLINE FOR RETURN OF ALL OTHERS.

3. ON AUGUST 23 AND 26 STUDENTS HELD MEETINGS ON CAMPUS IN DEFIANCE OF ORDER BANNING ALL MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER SEPTEMBER 14. AMONG 76 ARRESTED WHEN POLICE BROKE UP FIRST MEETING WAS SON OF GEORGE MATANZIMA, TRANSKEI MINISTER OF JUSTICE. ON 27TH VIOLENCE BROKE OUT AS STUDENTS REPORTEDLY BROKE INTO LECTURE ROOMS, DRAGGED OUT SOME STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASSES AND ALLEGEDLY USED OTHER INTIMIDATING TACTICS. POLICE WERE AGAIN CALLED IN AND STUDENTS VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED FROM FOUR TO 600 WERE SENT HOME BY TRAIN AND BUS. THESE WERE IN ADDITION TO STUDENTS WHO HAD NOT RETURNED FOLLOWING EARLIER WALKOUT. STUDENT SPOKESMEN LATER DENIED STUDENTS HAD USED VIOLENCE AND CLAIMED THEY DECIDED BOYCOTT LECTURES AND PREVENT UNIVERSITY FROM FUNCTIONING BECAUSE OF STUDENT ARRESTS AND ALLEGED REFUSAL BY RECTOR TO LISTEN TO PARENTS COMMITTEE. SOME STUDENTS WHO RETURNED TO CAPE TOWN STATED ALL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH RECTOR HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED, REAFFIRMED INTENTION NOT TO RETURN UNTIL ALL SUSPENDED STUDENTS REINSTATED UNCONDITIONALLY AND TERMED UNIVERSITY A CONCENTRATION CAMP WHERE THEY WERE TREATED LIKE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

4. COMMENT: EVEN BEFORE UNIVERSITY APARTHEID WAS INTRODUCED IN SOUTH AFRICA IN 1959 FORT HARE WAS REGARDED IN THE WORDS OF ONE COMMENTATOR AS "THE INCUBATOR OF BLACK NATIONALISM." THE BANNED ROBERT SUBUKWE, FOUNDER OF BANNED PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS AND IMPRISONED NELSON MANDELA OF UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT UMKONTO WE SIZWE ARE AMONG MANY ACTIVIST GRADUATES. SINCE COMING UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL 14 YEARS AGO THERE HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENT INCIDENTS AND STUDENT DISSENSION. WHILE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CURRENT UNREST CAN ULTIMATELY BE EXPECTED BACK, SOME WILL SEEK JOBS AND FEW WILL BE REFUSED RE ENTRY. PRESENT FORMS OF DISCONTENT, HOWEVER, WILL DOUBTLESS CONTINUE TO SIMMER AS LONG AS GOVERNMENT KEEPS ITS TIGHT GRIP ON THIS AND THE OTHER BLACK, COLORED AND INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRETOR 03231 101200Z

SMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRETOR03231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730945/aaaabhat.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAPE TOWN 542 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONDITIONS AT BLACK UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE STILL UNSETTLED
TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005